

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-07 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 IO-03 L-02 SR-02 ORM-01

AID-10 DRC-01 /075 W

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R 060953Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8763

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 18899

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS-TH

SUBJECT: CIF IN CHIANG MAI - GOVERNOR'S VIEWS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION BANGKOK FROM CHIANG MAI 4 DEC 73 REPEATED
FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CHIANG MAI 423

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

EXAGS: PINS, TH, BM

SUBJECT: CIF IN CHIANG MAI - GOVERNOR'S VIEWS

1. NORTHERN CHIANG MAI IS THE HOME OF GEN. LI WEN HUAN'S 3RD CIF
ARMY, AND SUPREME COMMAND'S 0-4 HQS CONCERNED WITH THE RESETTLE-
MANT OF THESE PEOPLE. DURING DISCUSSION DECEMBER 4 WITH CHIANG
MAI GOVERNOR ASA MEKSAWAN, HE MADE SEVERAL COMMENTS CONCERNING THE
CIF PROBLEM.

2. ASA SAID THAT BKK POST REPORTERS HAD BEEN TO SEE HIM PRIOR TO
THEIR RECENT SERIES OF ARTICLES. HE SAID THEY EXPRESSED GREAT
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SUSPICION ABOUT THE KMT ON THAI SOIL, AND QUESTIONED WHETHER OR

NOT THEY SHOULD BE TRUSTED. ASA REPLIED THAT WHILE HE WAS NOT DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THESE PEOPLE, HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE THAI MILITARY HAD CONTROL OF THEM. HE TOLD THE REPORTERS THAT KMT HAD BEEN GIVEN CERTAIN DESIGNATED AREAS AND THAT PR HAD PEOPLE AT THAM NGOP WHO COULD WARN OF IMPENDING DIFFICULTIES. HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOWED THESE PEOPLE TO KEEP LIGHT WEAPONS, BUT IN THE HIGHLY UNLIKELY EVENT OF ANY CONFLICT, THE THAI GOVT COULD TAKE CARE OF THE SITUATION EASILY. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THESE PEOPLE HAVE NO DESIRE TO FIGHT WITH THE THAI GOVT SINCE THEY ONLY WANT TO LIVE PEACEFULLY AND BECOME THAI CITIZENS.

3. ASA TODAY EXPANDED AT SOME LENGTH ON THE CITIZENSHIP QUESTION. WITHOUT CITIZENSHIP, KMT CHILDREN ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THAI SCHOOLS, CONSEQUENTLY IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO ABSORB THEM INTO THAI SOCIETY. HE SAID HIS WIFE RECENTLY MET A HAW STUDENT AT CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY WHO HAD SOMEHOW MANAGED A HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION AND ENTRY INTO THE UNIVERSITY. HE SAID THE STUDENT, HOWEVER, WAS EXTREMELY WORRIED ABOUT HIS FUTURE SINCE HE DID NOT HAVE CITIZENSHIP. HE PERSONALLY BELIEVES KMT SHOULD BE GIVEN CITIZENSHIP SO THAT THE ABSORPTION MIGHT BEGIN; THAILAND HAS HAD NO DIFFICULTIES IN THE PAST IN ABSORBING CHINESE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, CERTAIN HIGH RANKING PEOPLE IN THE GOVT REMAIN ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO THE GRANTING OF CITIZENSHIP. ASA SAID THAT UNTIL THIS IS RESOLVED, THE PRESENT AWKWARD SITUATION WILL CONTINUE.

4. ASA ADMITTED THAT IT WAS POLITICALLY DIFFICULT FOR RTG TO LIVE WITH THE EXISTENCE OF "ARMED FOREIGN TROOPS" ON THAI SOIL. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT PENDING THE SOLUTION OF THE CITIZENSHIP QUESTION THE GOVT REALLY HAD VERY FEW OPTIONS. THEY COULD NOT DEPORT THE KMT TO RED CHINA OR TAIWAN AND IT WOULD BE UNHUMANE TO TRY TO FORCE THEM BACK TO BURMA.

5. COMMENT: ASA'S COMMENTS RE CITIZENSHIP POINTS UP ONE ASPECT OF RTG POLICY WHICH LIMITS CIF OPTIONS AND THEREBY ENCOURAGES THEM TO MAINTAIN THEIR IDENTITY AND THEIR ARMED FORMATIONS. UNQUOTE SIGNED MONTGOMERY.
KINTNER

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